GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
ILLEGAL BANGLADESHI IMMIGRANTS
JASKAUR MEENA;Y.G. MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently held any talks with Bangladesh for the repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (c) of the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.48 for answer on 17.07.2002

(a) to (c) The Government of India has been seriously concerned about large scale, illegal cross border movement from Bangladesh to India. India has been taking up the issue of illegal migration including, inter alia, the issue of repatriation with the Government of Bangladesh regularly. Both countries have established an institutionalised framework to discuss various issues related to border management through regular meetings of Directors General of the BSF and Bangladesh Rifles, Joint Working Group and Home Secretary level talks. This is in addition to regular field level meetings between civilian authorities and border forces. The problem of illegal immigration has also been regularly taken up by India with the Government of Bangladesh at the political level in addition to the institutional framework.

2. The issue was addressed in detail during the Director General-level talks held between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles on March 22-25, 2002 in Dhaka. Following detailed discussions, it was agreed that Bangladesh would take necessary steps to stop all types of illegal border crossing including that of illegal migration. During the recent visit of Mr. M. Morshed Khan, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh on June 16-17, 2002, the need for tightening border control to prevent all kinds of illegal cross-border movement was again discussed in detail. A tighter border control is expected to lead to decrease in the number of illegal migrants. The situation is being monitored by the Government.